COLVILLE TRIBES FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS

CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY RIBBON CUTTING AND FIRST SALMON CEREMONY

The ceremony is set to take place on Thursday June 20, at the CJH grounds in Bridgeport, Wash. Come join us as we celebrate the opening of our new hatchery facility and honor the salmon at the First Salmon Ceremony. The event will begin in the morning with prayer and song, and taking of the salmon, followed by story telling and honoring our tribal elder fishermen. Breakfast will be held at the main hatchery building. There will be displays, handouts/agenda, and videos for viewing pleasure. Speakers from Bonneville Power Administration, US Army Corps of Engineers, Grant County PUD, Colville Confederated Tribes' and others will be on hand to address the public at the park prior to the luncheon. John Sirois, chairman of the Colville Business Council will moderate this exciting event.

TRIBAL CEREMONIAL LOCKER

Tribal members have been asking questions regarding the Tribes' Ceremonial Locker such as how it's used, when it began and who can benefit from it.

The Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) Department seeks to manage the big game population for the benefit of the membership for subsistence and cultural needs. "One of the things that the Tribe recognizes is the need to give the animals a rest in the winter months, to survive and reproduce in the spring," said Randy Friedlander, interim Fish and Wildlife director.

The "Ceremonial Locker" was developed with the idea in mind that animals and fish can be collected during the appropriate harvest periods and stored during the winter and spring months. The Ceremonial Locker has been in operation for two years, this year being the second. Last year, the locker mainly had beef in it with a little deer and elk. There were also six trespass beef placed in the locker as well as one that was donated from a tribal rancher – Mike Marcellay. "Any animal that is poached and confiscated also goes into this locker," Friedlander said. "In 2011, that was a rough year for getting enough fish to put in the locker, but that wasn't the case in 2012. We have a lot of sockeye and Chinook in the freezer this year for ceremonies."

Tribal members can request meat from the Tribes' Food Distribution Center for ceremonies as well as other items that may be available. There is some meat and plenty of fish available for subsistence purposes. "There aren't that many requests for subsistence though as most people have seven months to prepare for the winter and harvest their meats throughout the season," he said.

Subsistence meat and ceremonial tags can be requested through the main Fish and Wildlife office at 634.2110. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Randy Friedlander at 634.2113.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS

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Aerial view of the Chief Joseph Salmon Hatchery.

CORING INTO THE DAM - A FINAL STEP IN THE HATCHERY CONSTRUCTION

When the Chief Joseph hydropower project was built in 1955, there were no provisions made for fish passage around the dam. In a satisfying wrinkle in time, the dam is now being tapped to provide life giving water for the Chief Joseph Salmon Hatchery. The hatchery project is 98% complete. CJH staff will be receiving adult spring Chinook broodstock in May.

Much of the remaining contractor activity is focusing on completion of the delivery systems for reservoir water through the dam and the adult holding and spawning facilities at the fish ladder. In the September 2012 newsletter, it explained how the reservoir water intake had to be modified due to the placement of rip rap that blocked the entrance to the irrigation intake port. An underwater 10-foot by-12-foot by 2-foot thick concrete bulkhead was poured to block the lower opening to the irrigation intake and a hole was drilled through the 15-inch thick wall above to create a port for reservoir water from the intake screen. The rails are now mounted on the face of the dam and the 4-foot by 9-foot long self-cleaning cylindrical screen is mounted on the rails and operational. A hydraulic motor using non-polluting hydraulic fluid rotates the screen when needed to clear debris from the surface of the screen.

The Chief Joseph Dam, the largest fish blocking dam on the main stem Columbia River supplies gravity water to the hatchery during the period when water temperatures stay cooler than low to mid 50º Fahrenheit. The other active work area, the brood stock holding raceways and spawning facility, is nearing completion. Six 9 by 74-foot concrete holding raceways and the 24 by 42-foot work deck are complete and have been outfitted with screens, stop logs and ladders. Degasser columns are in place at each raceway and the spawning shed is near completion with some electrical work and finishes yet to do.

The square concrete shaft at the river side of the raceways and work deck is a lift where the returning adult salmon will be raised up and sent to the raceways to ripen. Wild fish will be returned to the river and some fish will be harvested. There is a complex array of openings and gates between the fish ladder and the fish loft that will control discharges of hatchery effluent into the ladder or the bypass line. This allows control of hydraulic conditions in the ladder to best suit the needs of the returning adults when climbing the ladder.

The intake screen is swung into place, then lowered on rails to submerged position.

CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY MEETING BRINGS PURPOSE

In early March, a group of over 30 natural resource experts attended a four-day workshop at Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) located in Bridgeport, Wash. to discuss activities surrounding the hatchery program. The purpose of this workshop or Annual Program Review (APR) was to define the hatchery's production goals and to implement a plan. The Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife Dept. (CTFW) hosted the annual meeting, and it was facilitated by the CJH Science Program.

"We welcomed everyone and solicited their feedback, comments and suggestions," said Keith Wolf, CJH Science program manager.

"Their feedback is very important to us and will help us develop all components of the program. The development of this plan is complex because much of the research, science and planning behind it is complex."

– Keith Wolf,
CJH Science program manager

Each year, the Colville Tribes' staff works collectively with the region's natural resource experts, scientists, and stakeholders to present fish production and monitoring plans. Presentations ranged from research, monitoring and evaluation efforts, to fish production and harvesting, adult fish management, and habitat restoration and included a tour of the facility.

"The actions being implemented by the CTFW Program represent an extraordinary effort to recover Okanogan and Columbia River natural salmon and steelhead populations. The Tribes' have embraced hatchery reform efforts that seek to find a balance between artificial and natural production and address the often conflicting goals of increased harvest and conservation," Wolf said.

Representatives from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Chelan, Douglas and Grant County (GCPUD) Public Utility Districts were in attendance.

Dr. Lars E. Mobrand, senior biometrician for DJ Warren and Associates, is a congressionally-appointed member of the Hatchery Science Review Group. "The APR reflected the commitment of the Colville Tribe to meet goals for harvest in a manner that is consistent with conservation principles and the goal of re-establishing healthy naturally spawning populations in the Okanogan basin," said Mobrand. "It also demonstrated the intent to apply the most up-to-date knowledge and information to move the project forward in a scientifically defensible manner and with accountability to the broader community. The Colville Tribe is in the forefront of implementation of a paradigm shift in hatchery management within the context of an integrated, "all H" approach. He said, "The 2013 APR represented a step forward in the challenging process of institutionalizing hatchery reform in the 21st century."

The "all H" approach Dr. Mobrand refers to is an integration of habitat, hatcheries, harvest and hydro programs which will help to develop clear, specific, quantifiable harvest and conservation goals for natural and hatchery populations.

Tom Dresser, GCPUD Fish, Wildlife and water quality manager said, "The Colville Tribe and GCPUD have been working collaboratively on the CJH Project since 2004. These early efforts were documented in a Memorandum of Understanding in 2007, and then formalized in 2010 with approval of the CJH Sharing Agreement, agreed to by the Colville Tribe, GCPUD and BPA. These early efforts have laid a strong foundation which the Colville Tribe and GCPUD have continued to build upon." Dresser said, "Through open candid dialogue, working collaboratively together, and sharing of technical information at the CJH - APR meetings, the Colville Tribe is in the process of developing a hatchery program based on strong scientific principles."

For more information about the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program, go to www.colvilletribes.com/cjhp.php

Anthony Matt and Shawn Ankney

PCL STAFF FINISHING HATCHERY PROJECT

TYLER KAUTZ, project manager for PCL, began working at the CJH site on June 2010. In his position, he provides oversight on numerous projects involving the hatchery. During Phase I, he oversaw the construction of four houses, a domestic water supply and wastewater treatment system, and two acclimation ponds. Phase II involves completion of the water supply system and main hatchery building, office, storage and headbox buildings, raceway structures, rearing ponds, fish ladder and spawning facility, waste pond and waste treatment facilities. Kautz has several years of experience in the construction industry with emphasis in project management, subcontractor management, scheduling and document controls. Kautz said he enjoyed learning about fish culture processes and working on a project that is meaningful for the people, which made the job more rewarding. "Every project has its difficulties such as coordinating between stakeholders and that can be time consuming," said Kautz. "There were a lot of challenges but I had a quality group of people to work with and we worked through those challenges."

Tyler Kautz

SHAWN ANKNEY, carpenter for PCL, has been working for the company since June 2011. When he first began working for PCL; he poured slab at the raceways and retaining walls. He did steel framing and worked on the headbox building (this is where the different water supplies from the well field and reservoir converge to be directed, conditioned, or mixed as needed on their way to incubators, transfer tanks, raceways or ponds). This water is then discharged to the ladder or the bypass line that parallels the ladder into the river. Ankney did a lot of cement work as well. Prior to this, he was employed at Colville Tribal Service Corporation, working on the four housing units that hatchery staff currently resides in. The houses are located above the CJH site. Ankney earned his Associate of Arts degree in Carpentry and Cabinetry from Spokane Community College in 2010.

ANTHONY MATT, laborer for PCL, has worked on the CJH job since April 2011. As a laborer, he did a lot of concrete and form work, and then spent much of his time on the job laying pipe. He said he learned how to do pipe work and had good supervisors to show him how. Matt worked on the fish ponds in Omak and Riverside during Phase I, doing concrete work and assisting other laborers. "Dealing with the weather at times was the most difficult part of this job," said Matt. "This is my first time working on a hatchery facility and it's been a good experience for me. Since working for PCL, I have learned a lot on the job and I've stuck with it and enjoyed the work." Matt has approximately five years experience in the construction field.

MIKE MOORE, laborer for PCL, started his position for the company mid-August of 2011. When he started working on the job, he did concrete work and worked on the bays. He spent a few months working on the headbox and office buildings. He also worked on the coffer dam (which is a temporary enclosure built within a body of water and was constructed to allow the enclosed area to be pumped out) such as concrete finish work, and assisted the carpenter crew with form work through the winter. In the last few weeks, he along with other staff have been running pipe (about seven miles in length) through the dam, working in a confined space. He said during that time, there were a lot of monitoring and air quality checks happening for safety reasons. "It was difficult at times finishing up that part of the job in a confined space," said Moore. "We also worked outside in the broodstock area, which I did enjoy, finishing up the concrete and pipe work." Moore has about 10 years of experience in the construction field.

Michael Moore, Cleaning Deck